

Everett Historical Commission

Meeting Summary

October 26, 2021

Commissioners

Steve Fox, Chair
Amelia Hieb, Vice Chair
Laura Cameron-Behee
Patrick Hall
Arnold Morrison
Andrea Tucker
Madison Vazquez
Collin Palen

Staff

Alex Byrd
Becky McCrary

Guest

Thomas Lucas

The meeting convened at 6:30 pm with a roll call of Commissioners.

Citizen Comments (for items not on tonight's agenda)

Vice Chair Hieb asked if there was a member of the public with comments or questions for items not on the agenda. No one spoke up with any comments.

Approval of Prior Meeting Summary

The meeting summary for the prior Historical Commission meeting held on August 24, 2021 was reviewed and two minor changes were requested. A motion to approve the meeting summary was made by Commissioner Hall, seconded by Commissioner Morrison, and approved unanimously.

Special Valuation Review for Rudolf Hartmann House (1012 Grand Ave.)

The applicant, Thomas Lucas, gave a presentation of the project, including a timeline and details of the work that has taken place on their home, including the improvements that qualified for the Special Valuation program.

Staff then presented the staff evaluation, went over the special valuation criteria, and explained how this application meets all of the criteria in order to approve. The residence at 1012 Grand Avenue is a historic home that was added to the Everett Register of Historic Places in 1992. As part of the application, the submitted receipts were reviewed. Receipts covering the landscaping expenses and deck replacement expenses are not eligible for the program and were deducted from the total cost of rehabilitation. With the reduction of the requested total to \$207,715.56, staff recommends approval.

Commissioner Tucker thanked the applicant for making the improvements to the home. Commissioner Hall asked staff to clarify what percentage of the assessed valuation of the property is required in order to qualify for the program and staff confirmed that a minimum of 25% is required. Commissioner Hall asked the applicant for details regarding the window replacement and the applicant confirmed that the new windows are consistent with the design of the old windows. Next, there was discussion regarding if the sunroom is original to the house or not. Commissioner Palen and Commissioner Morrison offered the applicant some advice on insulating older homes.

Chair Fox stated that he will be out of town until November 18th and asked staff if there are any timing issues with signing the agreement when he returns. Staff said there most likely won't be an issue with

Chair Fox signing when he returns or Vice Chair Hieb signing the agreement instead. Staff will look into this and follow up regarding next steps. Vice Chair Hieb noted that the improvements look wonderful and that this is exactly the kind of work that the Historical Commission encourages. Chair Fox concluded the commissioner discussion by thanking the applicant for the work that was done.

Commissioner Tucker, seconded by Commissioner Fox, made a motion to approve the special valuation agreement for the Chair's signature and it was approved unanimously by the Historical Commission.

Commissioner and Staff Comments

Long Range Planning Manager, Becky McCrary, stated that staff can work on written procedures for the Historical Commission to provide more structure during the meetings. Becky McCrary also mentioned the Open Public Meetings Act and stated that the Commissioners will need to review the webinar and do the required training. Staff will send link to Commissioners.

The Commission discussed if there will be a November meeting or if the October meeting will be the last one of the year. Commissioner Hall pointed out that there are other items to work on besides specific projects that are submitted to the City for review and that the Commission used to come up with a work plan at the beginning of each year. Commissioner Tucker stated that the Commission has gotten away from this in recent years and brought up the possibility of working on getting a freeway sign for the historic district.

Becky McCrary suggested at the beginning of the year we discuss what the work plan will be for 2022, come up with a list of goals, and prioritize these goals, keeping in mind that we will need to balance staff capacity. Commissioner Hall suggested coming up with a short list of achievable items rather than a long list of things that are more difficult to achieve. Commissioner Hall also suggested coming up with items that the Commission can do with minimal assistance from staff. Becky reminded the Commission that the next two years the Planning Department will be going through the annual comprehensive plan update and the historic elements will need the Commission's participation.

Commissioner Hall asked if redrawing the Donovan Historic District requires staff involvement. He provided the history of the Donovan Historic District to staff and outlined some goals he would like to prioritize for the Donovan Historic District. There was follow-up discussion about District plaques for homes within the Donovan Historic District. Approximately 11 Donovan homes that were relocated out of the Donovan Historic District because of hospital expansion should be eligible for the plaques and have that portion of the block designated as part of the Donovan Historic District. This could be a future agenda item to work with staff to officially expand the Donovan Historic District. Staff stated that they will need to look into the plaques and what will be required to update the Donovan Historic District.

Vice Chair Hieb suggested adding brainstorming the 2022 work plan as an agenda item for the November meeting. Vice Chair Hieb advocated for a shorter list and suggested coming up with three priorities.

There was discussion regarding the November meeting date and the Commission decided to meet on November 30th, instead of November 23rd, due to scheduling conflicts with the Thanksgiving holiday. Chair Fox let the Commission know that the Van Valey House is in the process of being transferred to the Everett Museum of History. Commissioner Tucker provided updates regarding Historic Everett, an independent preservation organization.

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Tucker, seconded by Commissioner Hieb, and approved with unanimous agreement.